

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 2**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2006-020**  
**DATE: July 14, 2006      Time 4:30 p.m.**

**TO:** Governor John Hoeven  
State Capitol  
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Statewide Fires** – Fire conditions in areas of high fuel content have led to fires ignited by various sources including thunderstorms, agricultural operations and human error.

2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** No deaths or injuries have been reported.

3. **DAMAGES:** The National Drought Summary for July 11, 2006, indicated abnormally high temperatures, especially on July 7 and 8, intensified dry conditions. A few thunderstorms rolled across the northern plains, but overall rainfall was generally light. D3 (extreme) drought conditions encroached into southern North Dakota.

Within a three-hour time frame on July 12, State Radio, N.D. Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES), reported up to 48 separate grass fires, from the Montana border eastward into Adams, Billings, Bowman, Hettinger and McHenry Counties. All fires had either been started due to lightning strikes or farm equipment. No injuries were reported.

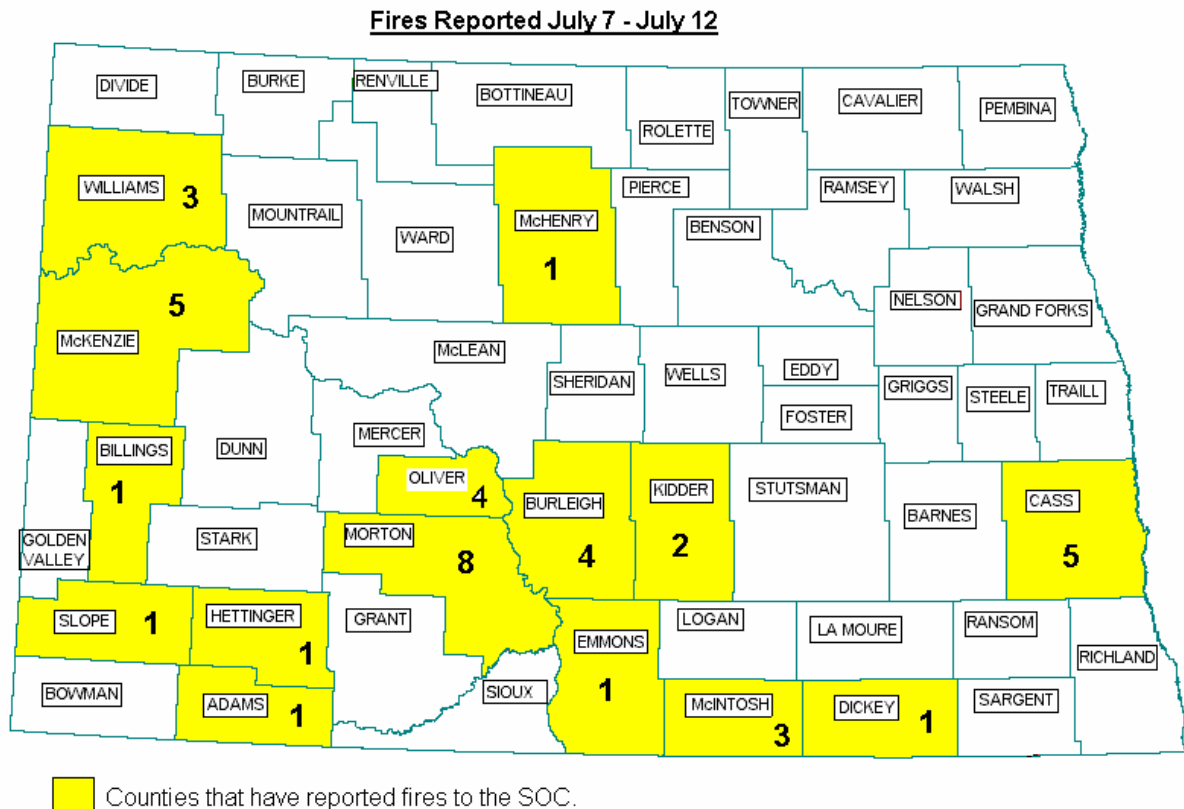
On Saturday, July 15, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will be opened to haying and grazing; equipment used in these operations pose a potential fire hazard. A large percentage of fires that occurred during the week of July 2 were started by balers.

The Aeronautics Commission reported crop spraying business in western North Dakota were experiencing a substantial reduction in their crop spraying business, from 15 to 60 percent of normal business. One operator has only sprayed 1,000 acres compared to up to 15,000 acres during a normal season. Another has not conducted any spraying operations this year.

On July 13, the Oliver County Emergency Manager reported there were three concurrent fires in the county and they were having trouble providing enough support for the fires. The County Emergency Manager requested mutual aid for the

Price Fire from the Hazen Fire Department, in total five fire departments were on scene. The County Emergency Manager requested assistance from the NDFS who responded with two teams from Bismarck to the Price Fire. At 4:30 p.m. it was reported that the fire departments were in mop up operations and had the fire under control. On July 14, at 9:45 a.m. the County Emergency Manager reported that the fire reignited and they had a public works blade on scene, three Center Fire Department units, and the Washburn Fire Department on stand-by. At 1:30 p.m. it was reported that the fire was out and fire crews were going home.

In addition to the 48 fires, the State Operations Center (SOC) received 41 fire reports within the past week as illustrated in the state map below:



#### 4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: Agencies monitoring fire conditions include county extension service officials, fire departments, dispatch centers, law enforcement, county and city public works crews, park boards and emergency management officials.

STATE: Agencies involved in monitoring fire reports include the Governor's Office, N.D. Fire Marshal's Office, N.D. Forest Service (NDFS), N.D. Game and Fish Department (NDGF), N.D. Parks and Recreation Department (NDPR), N.D. Department of Agriculture (NDDA), N.D. State Water Commission (NDSWC), and N.D. Department of Emergency Services (NDDes) Divisions of Homeland Security and State Radio.

FEDERAL: Agencies providing periodic reports include the National Weather Service (NWS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Federal

Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Local residents and ranchers are supporting response efforts.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: On June 30, Governor John Hoeven announced a statewide rural fire emergency. The executive order applies statewide, but according to the North Dakota Fire Danger Index, restrictions apply only to counties in either the “very high” or “extreme” fire danger categories. The order was issued in response to dry conditions and a heavy vegetative fuel load, significantly increasing the risk of wildfires. Severe to extreme drought conditions exist across much of south central and southwestern North Dakota and may continue to expand in area throughout the summer, based on forecasts by the National Weather Service (NWS).

The following counties have issued burn bans that are still in effect: Barnes, Billings, Burleigh, Cass, Dunn, Emmons, Grand Forks, Grant, Hettinger, Kidder, Mercer, Morton, Logan, McIntosh, Oliver and Sioux Counties. The US Forest Service will issue Stage 1 restrictions on July 15 for Cedar River and Little Missouri National Grasslands.

On July 11, Governor John Hoeven and Greg Wilz, Director of the NDDDES’ Division of Homeland Security, toured the south central and the southwestern parts of North Dakota. Dry conditions increase the potential for fires to grow rapidly out of control.

On July 12, NDDDES held a meeting to review fire and drought conditions throughout the state, as well as individual agency responsibilities and tasks for supporting local and tribal governments. Participating agencies included: the N.D. Forest Service (NDFS), the N.D. Highway Patrol (NDHP), the N.D. Game and Fish Department (NDGF), the N.D. Parks and Recreation Department (NDPR), the State Fire Marshal’s Office, the N.D. Aeronautics Commission, the N.D. National Guard (NDNG), and NDDDES.

Personnel from the NDNG reported the following resources are on standby to support local and tribal firefighting efforts:

- Three five-ton trucks with drop sides and pumps to pull water from a water source and transfer into firefighting vehicles.
- Seven D-7 dozers available at the following locations: two in Minot; two in Dickinson; two in Williston; one in Bismarck.
- One 5,000-gallon water tanker available in Bismarck.
- One Blackhawk and two Huey helicopters with fire suppression buckets.

Additionally, approximately 60 National Guard soldiers have received “red card” training certification for firefighting by the NDFS.

Additionally, the NDFS has pre-positioned its Type 6 grassland engines as follows:

- Two at Fort Lincoln;
- One in Bottineau; and
- One in Amidon.

The Forest Service has also obtained the following:

- 30-man fire cache (tools, personal protective equipment (PPE), rations)
- 30 programmable hand-held radios

The N.D. Aeronautics Commission staff provided a briefings regarding dry conditions to aerial applicators in Hebron, Mott, Hettinger, Linton, Watford City, Washburn, Beach and Mandan.

Oliver County declared an emergency disaster on July 13, 2006.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No assistance has been requested.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No outside help, beyond mutual aid, has been reported.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The Rangeland Fire Index can be obtained on the internet at the N.D. Department of Emergency Services web site at [www.nd.gov/des/info/firedanger.html](http://www.nd.gov/des/info/firedanger.html) or the NWS website [www.crh.noaa.gov/bis/fire.php](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/bis/fire.php).

The N.D. Department of Emergency Services Situation Reports are posted on the Departments Internet home page. The address is <http://www.nd.gov/des>.

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Greg Wilz, State Director